

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claim 41 (as set forth in the prior Office Action) and allowing claim 41 in this Office Action. However, Examiner has now rejected Claims 10 and 11 under 35USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Henson et al US 5,325, 455.

Regarding the Henson et al patent, it was previously pointed out that applicants' invention is neither suggested nor taught by this reference. In order to more succinctly set forth applicants' invention, claim 10 has been amended, as follows:

10. (Currently Amended) An optical coupler for coupling an optoelectronic device to an optical fiber, comprising:
an electrical connector ;
an optical transmission medium disposed proximate the electrical connector; and
~~an~~ a unitary encapsulant surrounding at least a portion of the connector and at least a portion of the transmission medium;

wherein the electrical connector includes a conductive plug within a microelectronic device.


Clearly, the frame 14 in Henson et al US 5,325,455 patent does not have: "a unitary encapsulant surrounding at least a portion of the connector and at least a portion of the transmission medium". Rather, two parts of a frame are joined together to form the enclosure. No portion of frame 14 encapsulates the electrical connectors. These are clear patentable distinctions. Dependent claim 11 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons and also because it recites additional features of the invention.

It is noted that applicants have also amended claims 8, 18, 23, 33, 58, 70, and 71 to more succinctly set forth the invention as defined by these allowed claims. For the

sake of completeness, applicants would like to bring to Examiner's attention related US Patent 6,960,031 entitled: "Apparatus and Method of Packaging Two Dimensional Photonic Devices", in which the present patent application is referenced.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 10 and 11 are believed to be in condition for allowance. All other claims were previously allowed. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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